

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00896 311842Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8494

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EGEN PE

SUBJ: CHANGING OF THE MILITARY GUARD

1. THE RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR GENERAL MORALES BERMUDEZ AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS CLASS (FOURTEEN GENERALS AND NINE COLONELS) TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY AMID A CONSIDERABLE DISPLAY OF SENTIMENT AT THE CHORRILLOS MILITARY SCHOOL. GENERAL OSCAR MOLINA PALLOCHIA TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE TODAY AS MINISTER OF WAR AND PRIME MINISTER, REPLACING GENERAL ARBULU GALLIANI.

2. GENERAL MOLINA, AS THE NEW SENIOR OFFICER OF THE ARMY, RECALLED DURING HIS SPEECH AT THE CEREMONY THAT LAST APRIL 22 THE REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA, "IN USE OF ITS AUTHORITY AND FAITHFULLY INTERPRETING THE FEELINGS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE", HAD AGREED THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ WOULD CONTINUE IN THE PRESIDENCY "UNTIL THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN OF GOVERNMENT TUPAC AMARU". (THAT DOCUMENT CONTEMPLATES THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN 1980.)

3. MOLINA WENT ON TO ASSERT CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRESIDENT
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"WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ALL THE SUPPORT AND BACKING THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE CARRYING OUT OF YOUR TRANSCENDENTAL MISSION IN THIS DIFFICULT STAGE WE NOW CONFRONT IN WHICH INSTITUTIONAL LOYALTY AND THE UNITY OF ALL PERUVIANS CONSTITUTE THE BASES ON WHICH THE -- GREATNESS WE ALL DESIRE FOR PERU -- WILL BE SET",
MOLINA ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT'S

"DILIGENCE, SOBRIETY, EQUILIBRIUM AND SINGULAR TACT" IN
THE CONDUCT OF THE NATION'S AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT: MORALES BERMUDEZ MUST HAVE TAKEN COMFORT
FROM WHAT CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS A PLEDGE OF LOYALTY
ON BEHALF OF THE ARMY. THE INDICATIONS AT THE MOMENT ARE THAT HE
HAS WEATHERED THE RECENT FLURRY OF TROUBLES IN THE MILITARY.
GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS, HOW-
EVER, THIS IS PROBABLY BUT A MOMENT OF CALM IN WHAT
STILL PROMISES TO BE A ROUGH PASSAGE INDEED. END COMMENT.
SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, EGEN, MILI, PGOV, PE, (MORALES BERMUDEZ CERRUTTI, FRANCISC)
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